

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Review Item:

Kentucky Board of Education budget priorities and preparation of the 2006-2008 biennial budget request

Applicable Statute(s) or Regulation(s):

KRS 156.070(5), KRS Chapter 48

History/Background:

Existing Policy. Pursuant to KRS 48.050, the head of each executive budgetary unit shall submit the biennial budget request to the Finance and Administration Cabinet not later than November 15th of each odd numbered year. The KBE considers and makes determinations on budgetary priorities, then directs staff to prepare the biennial budget request on behalf of the Department for submission to the Finance and Administration Cabinet and subsequent submission to the Governor.

Significant steps in the budget process include:

1. Development and approval of the budget calendar;
2. Development and approval by GOPM of the program structure;
3. Preparation of the 2006-2008 budget request; and,
4. Submission of the 2006-2008 budget request to LRC and GOPM on or before the date designated.

A biennial budget was not passed in the regular legislative session of 2004 and the Commonwealth operated under a Continuation Spending Plan until a budget was enacted during the last legislative session. However, in the 2004-2006 biennial budget request, the KBE focused its primary priorities for funding in the areas of SEEK, Preschool, Kindergarten and Technology.

The legislature did provide for salary increases and increased health costs, restored funding for KERA strands that had been previously reduced, increased SEEK funding and supported literacy and math initiatives. Education leaders will continue to advocate for unobligated increases in SEEK, early childhood and technology. Teachers will be advocating for salary increases and health benefits.

The Board adopted strategic priorities for the next year at its May 2005 retreat. Strategic priorities include:

- High school redesign;
- Leadership (both building and teacher);
- Early childhood;
- Reading/Literacy (middle, high and early childhood; and,
- Achievement gap (barriers to learning).

Policy Issues:

What are the Board of Education's budgetary priorities for the 2006-2008 biennial budget?

Impact on Getting to Proficiency:

The biennial budget is essential to the pursuit of appropriate funding levels for the Department of Education. Appropriate funding levels will impact the Department's ability to pursue strategic priorities in furtherance of each child reaching proficiency by 2014.

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Date:

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